



# Connection

May 23, 2024 Editor: Pam Lottinville

## Mayor O'Connell Hosts Area Mayors' Dinner

Every other month the Mayors Association of Kankakee County meets to share insights and to help each other by disseminating information for the betterment of the county. On May 2, 2024, Mayor David O'Connell hosted a meeting at St. Anne Civic Center. Area mayors in attendance included: Paul Shores of Bourbonnais, Mike Watson of Bradley, Mark Hodge of Hopkins Park, Brian Stump of Aroma Park, and Shannon Sweeney of Herscher. Host O'Connell was assisted by First Lady Carol O'Connell, Clerk Tari Posing and Treasurer Sue Bonvallet. The food was catered by **Henry's Tacos**, a new restaurant in the village. The ladies created decorations to go along with the Mexican food theme.

Also in attendance were board members and their wives: Jerry and Karen Stam, Steve and Kim Abrassert, as well as board member Dana Miramontes. Chief of Police Todd Navratil and wife Carrie, Reverend Mike Seed and Wife Zoe, and editor of the **Connection** Pam Lottinville with husband Rich. Reverend Seed led us in a blessing before we enjoyed the food.

The Executive Director of Harbor House in Kankakee Jenny Schoenwetter was the guest speaker. She explained the mission statement and programs. As follows, the mission of Harbor House is (it) empowers individuals, families, and communities through domestic violence programs, advocacy, and prevention. A key component is prevention.

The programs offered by Harbor House include:

- 24-hour hotline: 815-932-5800
- 24-hour chatline: harborhousedv.org
- Emergency shelters
- Adult and youth counseling
- Legal advocacy
- Case management
- Prevention and community presentations
- Resale shoppe

Schoenwetter quoted 2023 statistics for awareness, including: HH served 553 survivors, answered 3,242 hotlines/chatlines and provided 4,611 nights of shelter. **You** can get involved by inviting someone to speak in your church or community, volunteer to help, and provide monetary donations.